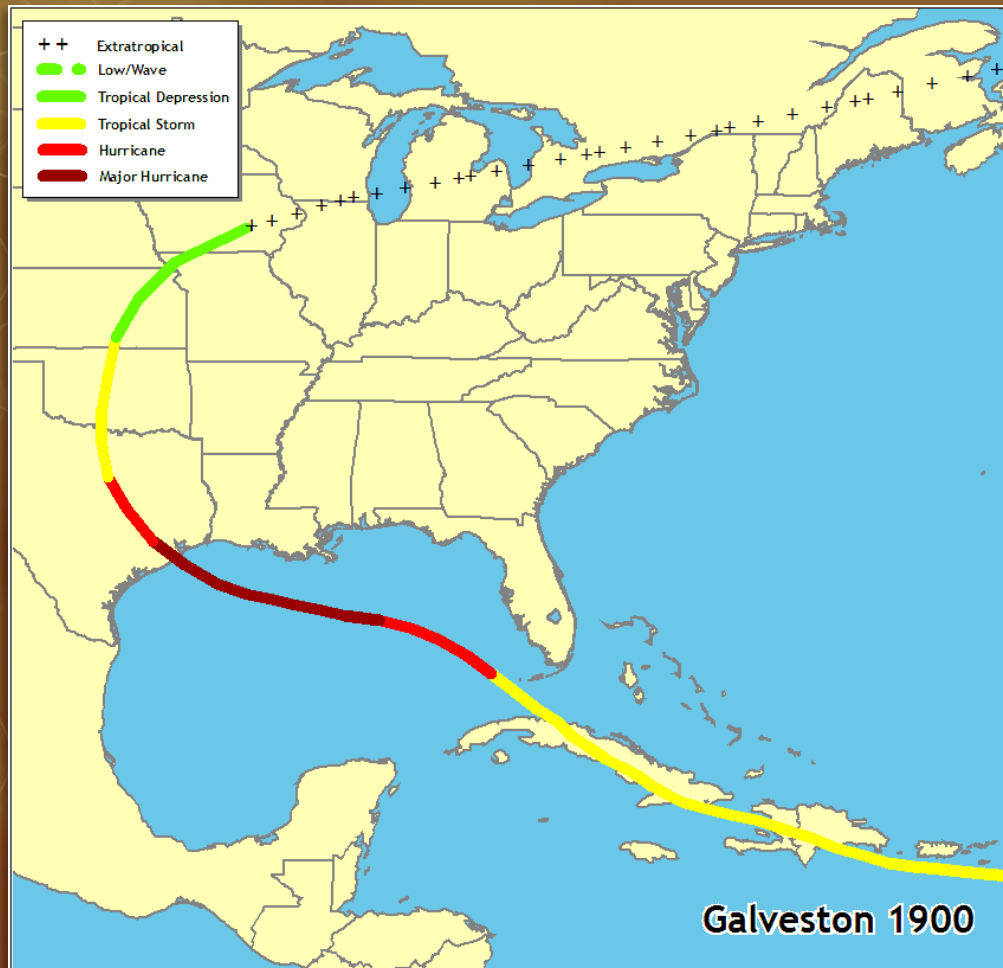


September 8, 1900



...beyond Galveston

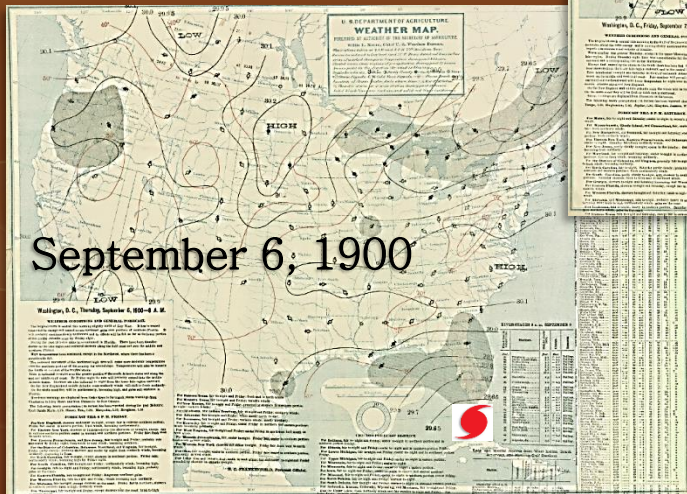
Devastation



Just about every weather enthusiast knows the date of September 8, 1900 as the day Galveston, Texas, was decimated by one of the most powerful hurricanes ever to strike the United States. The storm took thousands of lives and was by far the deadliest natural catastrophe ever to strike America.

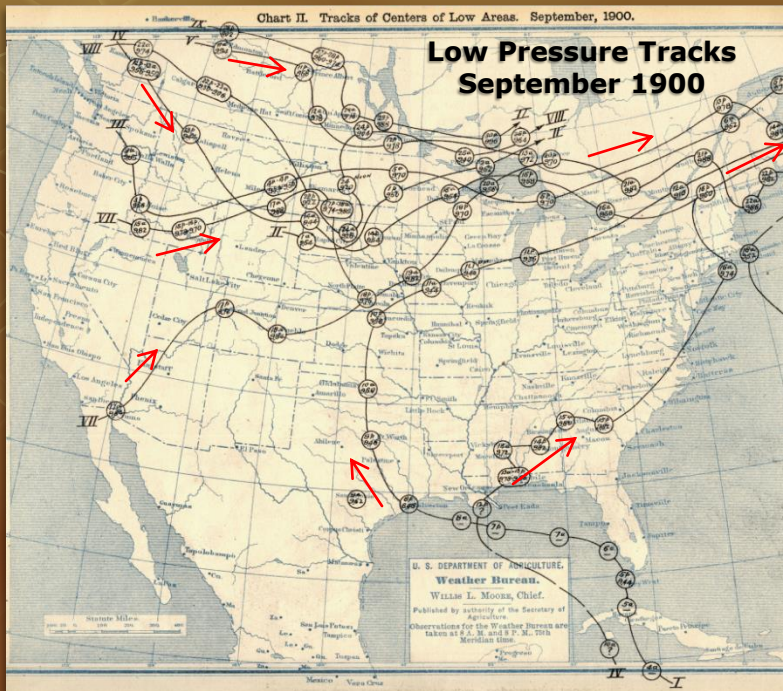
Away from Galveston

Understandably, all eyes were on the Texas coast that day. And while the Great Storm was certainly the big weather story...

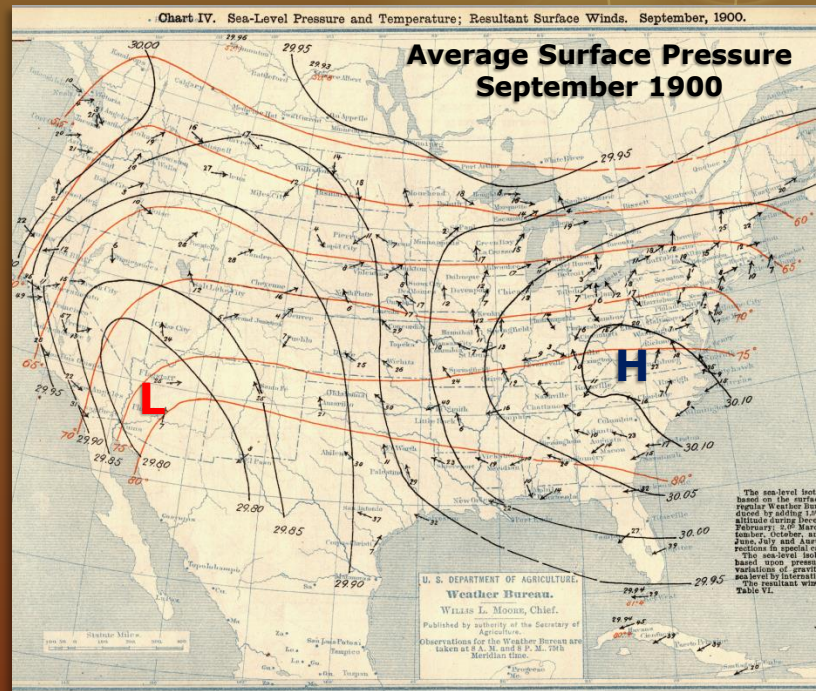


...there was some other interesting weather happening across the country as well.

Hot and Dry



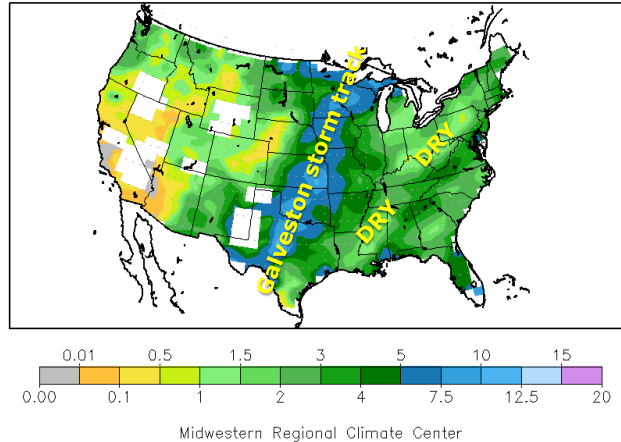
During September 1900 the primary storm track was across the upper Plains and along the Canadian border. (The two storms shown coming up from the Gulf of Mexico were the Galveston Hurricane and a tropical storm mid-month.)



A large dome of high pressure anchored itself across the eastern U.S., keeping much of the central and eastern parts of the nation hot and dry.

Hot and Dry

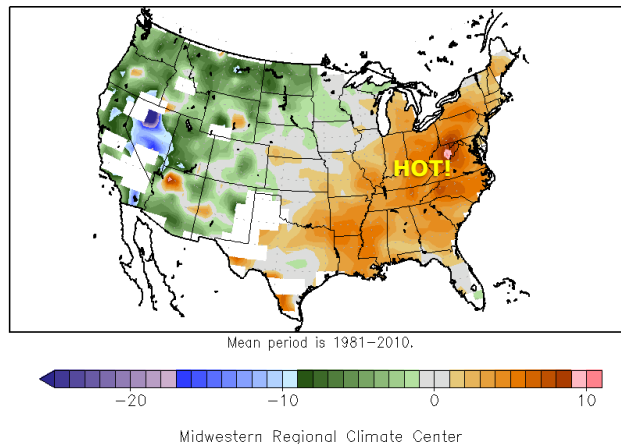
Accumulated Precipitation (in)
September 1, 1900 to September 30, 1900



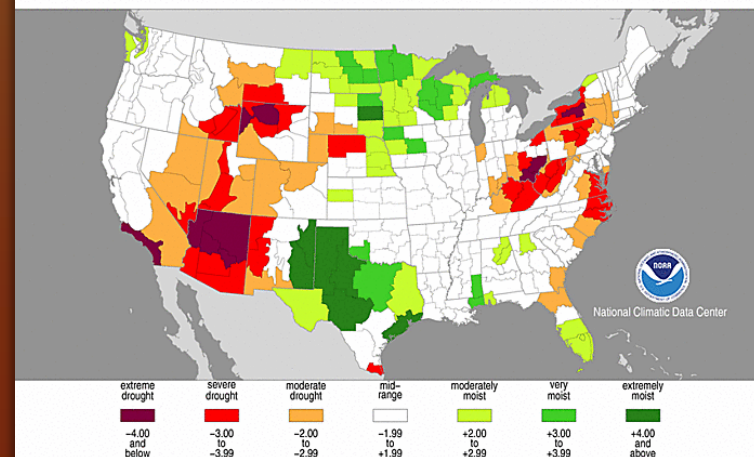
Had the Galveston storm curved more to the right, welcome rains would have soaked the eastern United States.

Instead, the hurricane's remnants traveled northward through the Plains and into the Great Lakes region. The East stayed hot and dry, with severe to extreme drought establishing itself in the upper Ohio Valley.

Average Maximum Temp. (°F): Departure from Mean
September 1, 1900 to September 30, 1900



Palmer Drought Severity Index
September, 1900



Heat Wave

Nearly every day from the 1st to the 15th of the month saw afternoon temperatures in the 90s somewhere in southern Indiana or central Kentucky. From the 6th to the 11th all major reporting stations in the region had daily highs in the 90s, and a few even hit 100°.

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WEATHER BUREAU.

Monthly Meteorological Record of Corn and Wheat Region Station
at *Maysville, Ky.* during *September, 1900.*

DATE.	TEMPERATURE*			PRECIPITATION IN INCHES AND HUNDREDTHS.			State of weather.	Time observation was taken.	Time report was filed at telegraph office.	GENERAL
	Max.	Min.	Mean.	Began.	Ended.	Amount.				
1	97	65	81				clear	6.40	7.00	43 313
2	96	62	79.5				clear	7.00	6.40	
3	93	69	83				cloudy	6.40	7.14	
4	87	66	76.5	8.00	8.30	0.1	fog	6.40	7.06	
5	94	63	78.5				fog	6.42	7.07	
6	96	64	80				clear	6.25	6.53	
7	100	66	83				clear	6.30	6.59	
8	97	68	82.5				clear	6.35	6.58	
9	101	65	83				clear	7.00	6.40	
10	100	66	83				clear	6.40	7.05	
11	102	66	84				clear	6.40	7.07	
12	97	69	83				clear	6.35	7.05	
13	92	60	76				partly cloudy	6.40	7.07	
14	94	63	78.5				cloudy	6.45	7.05	
15	88	58	71.5				clear	6.35	7.03	
16	91	60	75.5				clear	7.00	6.40	
17	83	46	64.5				clear	6.35	6.53	

Mean temperature (obtained by dividing the sum of the mean maximum and mean minimum by two) *75.0°*

Highest temperature during month and date, *102°*

Lowest temperature during month and date, *46°*

Total precipitation during month *1.21* inches.

Number of days on which .01 or more precipitation occurred *6*

Greatest precipitation in any 24 consecutive hours, and date *0.57*, and date *29th*

REMARKS.
(Note severe storms and unusual phenomena.)

Voluntary Observers' Meteorological Record: Month of *September, 1900*

Station, *Salem*; County, *Washington*; State, *Indiana*

DATE	TEMPERATURE				Range	Time of beginning	Time of ending	Amount	Direction	Character of day
	7 A.M.	4 P.M.	9 A.M.	10 P.M.						
1	92	65	78.5	27			0.00	SW	Partly Cloudy	
2	90	69	79.5	21			0.00	S	Cloudy	
3	91	70	80.5	21			0.00	W	Partly Cloudy	
4	94	66	80	28			0.00	N.E	Partly Cloudy	
5	97	63	80	34			0.00	S.W	Partly Cloudy	
6	96	63	79.5	33			0.00	S.W	Cloudy	
7	102	68	81.5	37			0.00	N.E	Partly Cloudy	
8	95	67	84.5	35			0.00	N.W	Partly Cloudy	
9	95	66	82.5	32			0.00	N	Partly Cloudy	
10	91	65	81	32			0.00	S.W	Partly Cloudy	
11	92	61	77	32			0.00	S.W	Cloudy	
12	88	60	74	28			0.03	N.W	Clear	
13	94	60	75	34			0.00	N.E	Partly Cloudy	
14	98	68	77	25			0.00	N.E	Partly Cloudy	
15	93	60	76.5	33			0.00	N.W	Partly Cloudy	
16	83	58	70	24			0.00	N	Partly Cloudy	

The observer's daily weather form from Maysville, Kentucky. The first column of handwriting is each day's high. Three consecutive days saw temperatures soar to at least 100°!

Here's the weather observer's form from Salem, Indiana. The left-most handwritten column is each day's high temperature. 102° on the 8th!

Note on the two forms shown above: the high temperature actually occurred on the afternoon of the day before the day on which the value was recorded on the form

A Hot Month

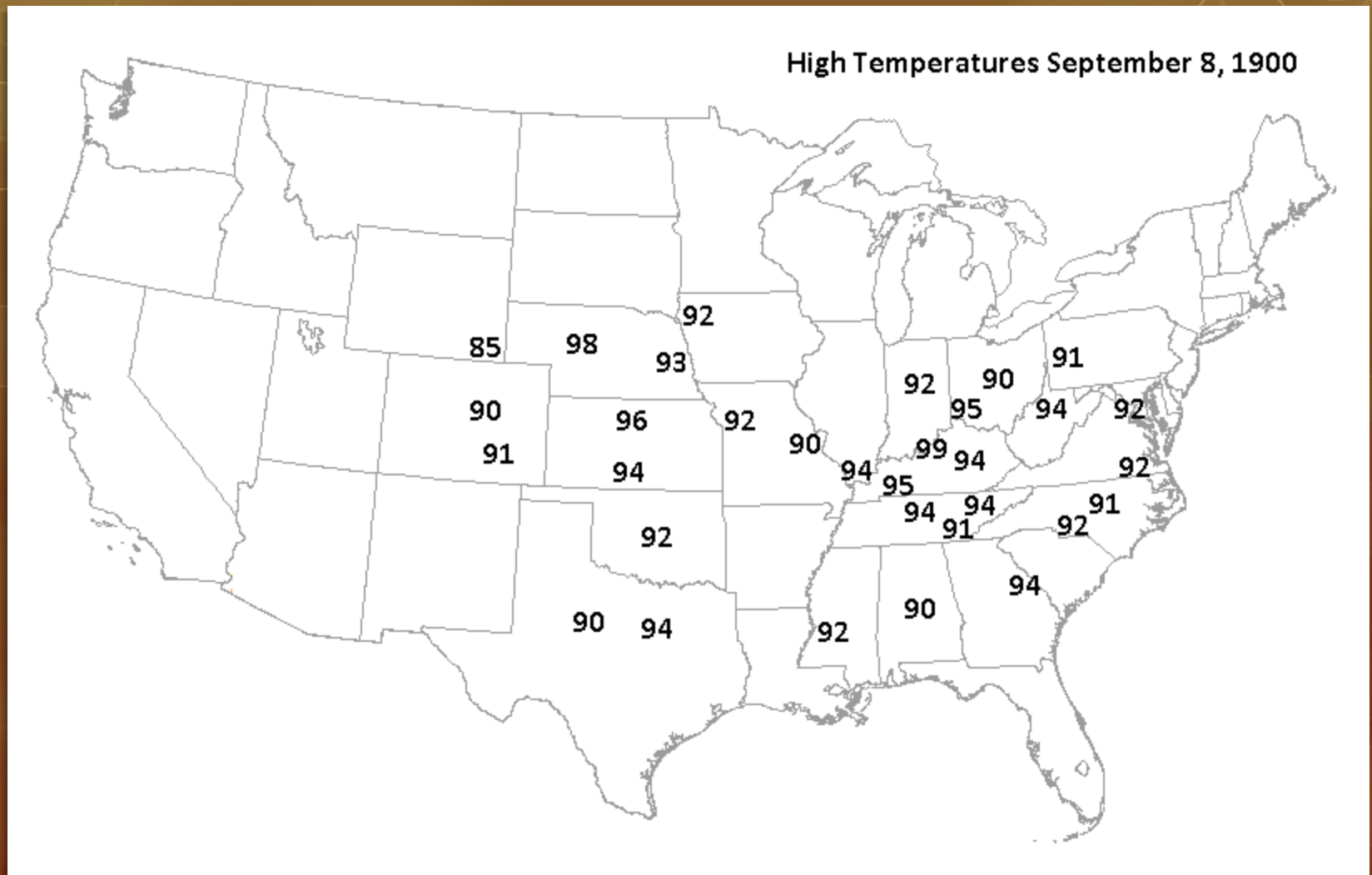
The middle column on this table shows temperature departures from normal for September 1900. Look how hot it was in central and eastern sections of the country! The Ohio and Tennessee Valleys were the hottest of all, at 5.7 degrees warmer than normal.

Meanwhile, the West was cool. That's because the western United States was under a cool upper trough and benefited from storms coming in off the Pacific, while the eastern U.S. baked under a dome of hot high pressure aloft.

<i>Average temperatures and departures from the normal.</i>					
Districts.	Number of stations.	Average temperatures for the current month.	Departures for the current month.	Accumulated departures since January 1.	Average departures since January 1.
		°	°	°	°
New England	10	63.1	+ 2.3	+ 8.0	+ 0.9
Middle Atlantic	12	71.8	+ 4.8	+13.3	+ 1.5
South Atlantic	10	77.8	+ 3.8	+ 4.6	+ 0.5
Florida Peninsula	7	80.7	+ 2.1	— 3.2	— 0.4
East Gulf	7	80.0	+ 4.0	— 2.4	— 0.3
West Gulf	7	81.1	+ 5.1	+ 6.8	+ 0.8
Ohio Valley and Tennessee....	12	74.2	+ 5.7	+ 8.6	+ 1.0
Lower Lake	8	66.8	+ 3.6	+ 6.7	+ 0.7
Upper Lake	9	61.9	+ 2.9	+13.2	+ 1.5
North Dakota	8	56.1	— 1.6	+34.8	+ 3.9
Upper Mississippi Valley	11	67.5	+ 2.6	+14.7	+ 1.6
Missouri Valley	10	66.3	+ 1.2	+23.1	+ 2.6
Northern Slope	7	57.1	— 1.0	+29.8	+ 3.3
Middle Slope	6	68.6	+ 1.3	+17.6	+ 2.0
Southern Slope	6	74.2	+ 2.7	— 6.9	+ 0.8
Southern Plateau	15	65.2	— 3.4	— 4.4	+ 0.5
Middle Plateau	9	57.9	— 3.7	+14.1	+ 1.6
Northern Plateau	10	55.8	— 1.4	+22.0	+ 2.4
North Pacific	9	57.2	— 0.3	+12.2	+ 1.4
Middle Pacific	5	63.1	— 0.0	+ 7.8	+ 0.9
South Pacific	4	66.6	— 1.7	+ 7.3	+ 0.8

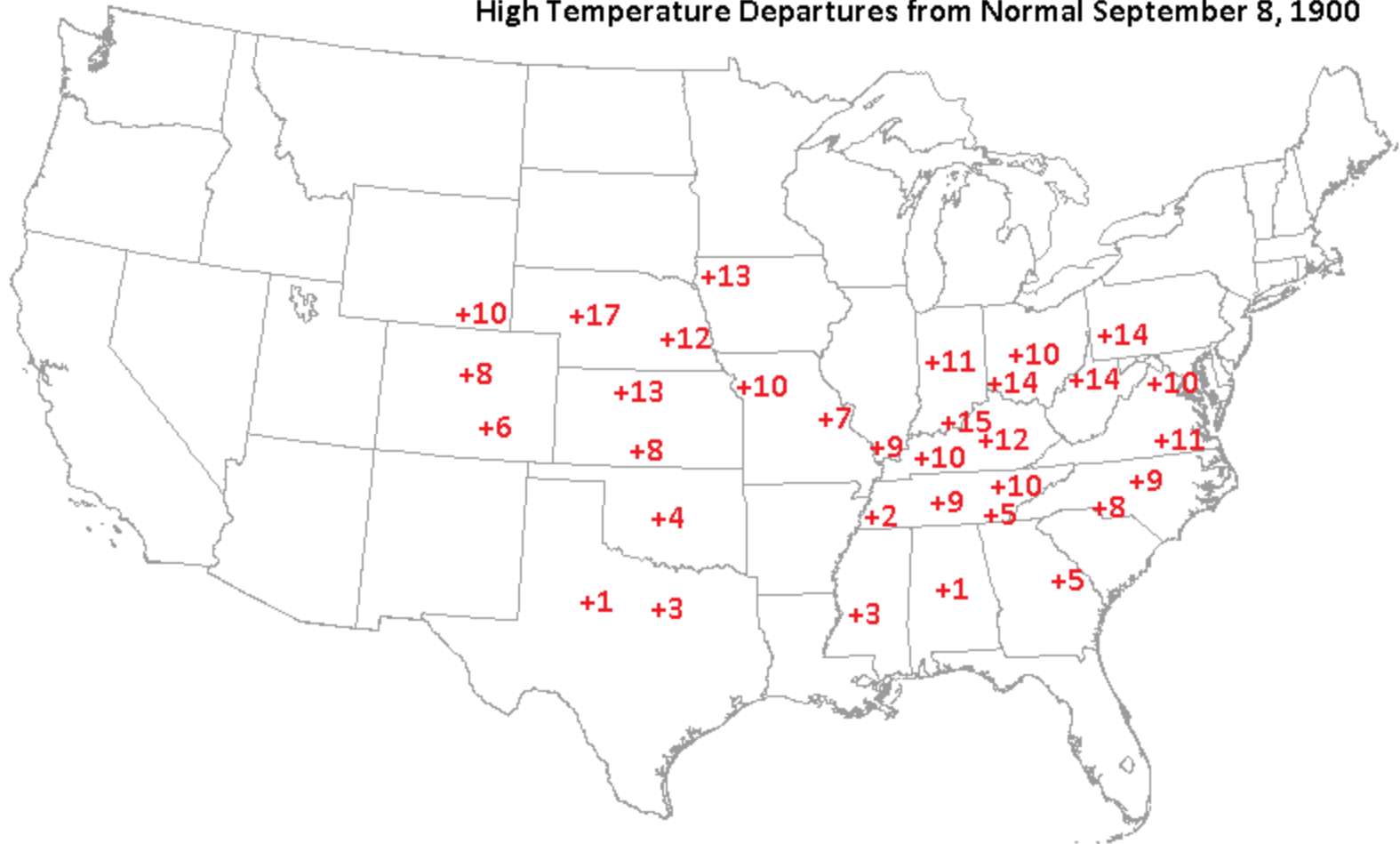
Over a century later, September 1900 is still one of the top ten hottest Septembers on record in central Kentucky and southern Indiana.

September 8, 1900



September 8, 1900

High Temperature Departures from Normal September 8, 1900



1981-2010 normals

September 8, 1900

Washington, D. C., Saturday, September 8, 1900—8 A. M.

WEATHER CONDITIONS AND GENERAL FORECAST.

The tropical storm has continued its westward movement and is still central in the Gulf of Mexico, apparently a short distance from the Texas coast. It has caused dangerous north-east gales throughout the Gulf and unprecedentedly high tides on the Texas coast.

During the past 24 hours there has been but little rain, except in Florida and on the middle Gulf coast. There were local thunder-storms in the middle Atlantic states and some showers in the Northwest and extreme West.

Temperatures have changed but little, except in New England, where they have fallen and in the northern upper lake region, where there has been a considerable rise.

Generally fair weather is indicated for to-night and Sunday, except in the southern portion of the middle and west Gulf states and in eastern Florida, where there will be showers.

Temperature changes will not be marked.

On the Atlantic coast the winds will be light to fresh and mostly easterly.

Storm warnings are displayed from Galveston to Brownsville.

The following heavy precipitation (in inches) has been reported during the past 24 hours: New Orleans, 1.28; Huron, 1.76; Santiago, Cuba, 1.80.

FORECAST TILL 8 P. M. SUNDAY.

For the District of Columbia, New England, Eastern New York, New Jersey, Eastern Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia, generally fair to-night and Sunday; light to fresh northeast to east winds.

For North Carolina, and South Carolina, generally fair to-night and Sunday; light to fresh easterly winds.

For Georgia, partly cloudy to-night and Sunday; light to fresh easterly winds.

For Eastern Florida, partly cloudy, with local showers to-night and Sunday; fresh easterly winds.

For Western Florida, partly cloudy to-night and Sunday; fresh easterly winds.

For Alabama, partly cloudy to-night, with probably showers in extreme southwest portion. Sunday partly cloudy; fresh easterly winds.

For Mississippi, partly cloudy to-night, with showers in southern portion. Sunday partly cloudy; diminishing easterly winds.

For Louisiana, showers to-night. Sunday partly cloudy, showers in western portion; diminishing east to southeast winds.

For Eastern Texas, showers to-night and probably Sunday; north to east winds, probably high on the coast.

For Western Texas, fair to-night and Sunday; except probably showers in southeast portion; variable winds.

For New Mexico, fair to-night and Sunday; southerly winds, becoming variable.

For Oklahoma, and Indian Territory, fair to-night and Sunday; easterly winds, becoming variable.

For Arkansas, fair to-night and Sunday; east to south winds.

For Tennessee, and Kentucky, fair to-night and Sunday; easterly winds.

For West Virginia, Western New York, Western Pennsylvania, and Ohio, fair to-night and Sunday; winds mostly light easterly.

For Lakes Erie and Ontario, light to fresh easterly winds and fair weather to-night and Sunday.

H. C. FRANKENFIELD, Forecast Official.

The U.S. has some of the wildest weather on Earth, as was shown on September 8, 1900 when the country experienced a catastrophic hurricane striking during a major heat wave and drought.

